

king's palace. But it has been unable to defend monarchic authority against attacks that were delivered at the outset by the independent ambitions of the aristocratic families which were represented by the senate. and later on by the aspirations of the common people. It may be argued that the commanding influence of the German Emperor effectually contradicts the assumption that the Teutonic peoples have been consistently moved by a desire to limit kingly prerogatives. But the conditions of Germany are peculiar : threatened upon one flank by the spirit of revenge. and on the other by the vague overshadowings of Slav ambition. she imperatively needs a War Lord. and must subordinate her aspirations to this necessity. And by exceptional forcefulness of character a king can always revive the respectful feelings to which the institution of kingship owes its origin. The Army and the Family then stand for influences by which monarchy and aristocracy have respectively been upraised. In Europe these influences have been in perpetual conflict. one or the other gaining strength as foreign or domestic interests became most pressing. Before the Eastern despot family authority has respectfully retreated within the circle of its own affairs. and has rarely ventured to contest with him the control of public business. We can hardly dignify with the name of " senates " the oriental councils

(or *darbars*) that rather feed a prince's vanity than moderate his caprices. In the West the struggles of the political arena have been complicated by a new force: the undistinguished masses have appeared at its gates and have demanded a part in the tournament. They might respect a king: and in the placid continuity of country life loyalty might persist towards land-holding